

Appl. No. 09/689,339  
Amdt. dated May 16, 2003

### REMARKS

It is believed that this Preliminary Amendment is being filed prior to the mailing of the first office action. When last checked, the application was awaiting assignment to an examiner. Page 2 herein updates and amends the cross-reference section of the specification. Page 3 cancels fourteen claims. Pages 4 through 9 present twenty-two new claims for entry. Three of the new claims are independent claims.

It is believed that the above amendments have generated additional PTO fees for only two extra claims. A Fee Transmittal form accompanies this amendment and authorizes payment of fees via a PTO deposit account. If it is determined that additional fees are also due in this application, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 14-1190 in the amount of such fees.

Applicant believes that the application is in condition for examination. Consideration and allowance of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

SIMMONS, PERRINE, ALBRIGHT &  
ELLWOOD, P.L.C.

By



Michael F. Williams  
Reg. No. 39,875

Simmons, Perrine, Albright & Ellwood, P.L.C.  
115 Third Street SE, Suite 1200  
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52401-1266  
Telephone: (319) 366-7641 ext. 222  
Facsimile No. (319) 366-1917